Ben Ray Luján – Controversial Votes & Votes Against Democratic Caucus Position

BEN RAY LUJÁN – CONTROVERSIAL VOTES & VOTES AGAINST DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS POSITION....1

AGRICULTURE....1
BUDGET....1
DEBT LIMIT....2
DEFENSE & NATIONAL SECURITY....2
DISASTER AID....3
ENERGY....3
FEDERAL WORKERS....4
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS....4
FOOD SAFETY....5
GUNS....5
IMMIGRATION....6
MEMBER OF CONGRESS....7
STUDENT LOANS....7
TAXES....7
TRANSPORTATION....7

Agriculture

Luján Voted Against Barring Farm Bill Payments To Entities With AGI Above $250K. In June 2011, Luján voted against a Flake, R-Ariz., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill to pay the salaries and expenses of Agriculture Department personnel to provide certain farm bill payments or benefits to a person or legal entity whose average adjusted gross income exceeds $250,000. The amendment was rejected, 186-228, with 102 Democrats voting yes and 76 voting no. [HR 2112, Vote #455, 6/16/11]

Budget

Luján Voted Against Budget Control Act. In August 2011, Luján voted against passage of the bill that would provide a process to reduce the deficit by up to $2.4 trillion. The measure would allow the president to raise the debt limit immediately by $400 billion, with an additional $500 billion subject to a resolution of disapproval. It would set discretionary spending caps that would reduce the deficit by $917 billion in fiscal 2012 through 2021 and establish a firewall between security and non-security spending for fiscal 2012 and 2013. It would establish a bipartisan, bicameral committee tasked with making recommendations to reduce the deficit by $1.5 trillion. It would require across-the-board cuts to non-exempt discretionary and mandatory accounts by up to $1.2 trillion over fiscal 2013 through 2021 if committee reductions totaling $1.2 trillion were not enacted. The measure would require Congress to vote on a balanced-budget constitutional amendment by the end of 2011. It also would provide for an additional debt limit increase of $1.2 trillion to $1.5 trillion, subject to a resolution of disapproval. [S 365, Vote #690, 8/1/11]

Luján Voted Against Continuing Appropriations Bill To Fund Government Operations Through FY2013. In March 2013, Luján voted against Rogers, R-Ky., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would provide

continuing appropriations through fiscal 2013 for government operations, including $1.043 trillion in discretionary funds before sequestration. It would provide $517.7 billion in base discretionary funding for the Defense Department and $71.9 billion for veterans programs and military construction as well as $20.5 billion for agriculture programs, $39.6 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, and $50.2 billion for commerce, law enforcement and science programs. The bill would fund all other departments and agencies at their fiscal 2012 enacted levels, with adjustments for certain programs. The bill passed, 318-109, with 115 Democrats voting yes and 82 voting no. [HR 933, Vote #89, 3/21/13]

Debt Limit

Luján Voted Against Short-Term Debt Limit Increase. In January 2013, Luján voted against passage of the bill that would suspend the limit on government borrowing through May 18, 2013 and then automatically increase the current $16.4 trillion ceiling to accommodate additional debt accumulated through that date. It also would suspend the salary payments to members in either chamber that does not adopt a fiscal 2014 budget resolution by April 15, 2013. Salaries of members of a chamber that do not adopt a budget by that time would be placed into an escrow account and would not be released until the chamber adopted a budget or until the last day of the 113th Congress, in January 2015. The bill was adopted, 285-144, with 86 Democrats voting yes and 111 voting no. [HR 325, Vote #30, 1/23/13]

Defense & National Security

Luján Voted For FISA Reauthorization. In September 2012, Luján voted for passage of the bill that would reauthorize for five years, through 2017, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which governs electronic surveillance of foreign terrorism suspects. The law allows surveillance of foreign targets who may be communicating with people in the United States provided that the secret FISA court approves surveillance procedures. It would allow the attorney general and director of national intelligence to jointly authorize, for up to one year, investigations involving surveillance targeting foreigners who are reasonably believed to be located outside the United States. The bill passed, 301-118, with 74 Democrats voting yes and 111 voting no. [HR 5949, Vote #569, 9/12/12]

Luján Voted Against Reducing OCO Account By $12.7 Billion. In July 2012, Luján voted against a Garamendi, D-Calif., amendment that would reduce funding provided in the Overseas Contingency Operations account by $12.7 billion. The reduction would not apply to: the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund; the Defense Health Program; Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense; Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund; or the Office of the Inspector General. The amendment failed, 137-278, with 129 Democrats voting yes and 50 voting no. [HR 5856, Vote #494, 7/19/12]

Luján Voted To Require Special Envoy To Ease Tensions & Normalize Relations With Iran. In May 2012, Luján voted for a Lee, D-Calif., amendment that would require the president, in consultation with the secretary of State, to appoint a special envoy to ease tensions and normalize relations between the

United States and Iran. It also would recommend that it should be U.S. policy to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. The amendment failed, 77-344, with 75 Democrats voting yes and 108 voting no. [HR 4310, Vote #285, 5/18/12]

Luján Voted To Bar Use Of Funds For Military Action In Libya. In July 2011, Luján voted for an Amash, R-Mich., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill to fund the use of military force in Libya. The amendment failed, 199-229, with 67 Democrats voting yes and 123 voting no. [HR 2219, Vote #514, 7/7/11]

Luján Voted To Direct President To Remove Armed Forces From Libya Within 15 Days. In June 2011, Luján voted for adoption of the concurrent resolution that would direct the president, pursuant to the War Powers Resolution, to remove U.S. armed forces from Libya within 15 days of the resolution's adoption. The resolution was rejected, 148-265, with 61 Democrats voting yes and 121 voting no. [H Con Res 51, Vote #412, 6/3/11]

Luján Voted To Strike Funding For Selective Service System. In February 2011, Luján voted for a DeFazio, D-Ore., amendment that would strike the $24 million in funding for the salaries and expenses account of the Selective Service System. The amendment was rejected, 130-301, with 86 Democrats voting yes and 105 voting no. [HR 1, Vote #59, 2/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Requiring Director Of National Intelligence To Cooperate With GAO Congressional Inquiries. In May 2010, Luján voted against Eshoo, D-Calif., amendment that would require the director of national intelligence (DNI) to cooperate with Government Accountability Office (GAO) inquiries initiated by congressional committees. It also would allow committees to request GAO audits of the intelligence community and allow the DNI to designate certain reports or portions of reports as sensitive or reportable only to the intelligence committees. The amendment was adopted, 218-210, with 206 Democrats voting yes and 49 voting no. [HR 5136, Vote #315, 5/27/10]

Luján Voted Against One Year Extension Of PATRIOT Act. In February 2010, Luján voted against a Conyers, D-Mich., motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the bill that would extend until Feb. 28, 2011, three provisions of the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act. The provisions allow the government to request access to "any tangible things" it says is related to a terrorism investigation, to seek court orders for "roving" wiretaps on suspects who use multiple devices or modes of communication, and to allow federal law enforcement officials to seek warrants to conduct surveillance of "lone wolf" foreign terrorist suspects who may not be connected to a larger terrorist group. The bill passed, 315-97, with 162 Democrats voting yes and 87 voting no. [HR 3961, Vote #67, 2/25/10]

Disaster Aid

Luján Voted Against Adoption Of Rule To Provide For Consideration Of $17 Billion In Hurricane Sandy Aid. In January 2013, Luján voted against adoption of the rule (H Res 23) that would provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would provide $17 billion in emergency funding for relief and recovery efforts

to victims of Superstorm Sandy. The rule was adopted, 367-52, with 142 Democrats voting yes and 51 voting no. [HR 152, Vote #12, 1/15/13]

Energy

Luján Voted For Bill To Expedite Permitting Of LNG Exports. In January 2015, Luján voted for passage of the bill that would require the Energy Department to make a decision on pending applications to export liquefied natural gas within 30 days of the bill's enactment or at the end of the public comment period, whichever is later. Under the bill, applications would have to publicly disclose the countries that would receive the proposed exports. It also would authorize the U.S. Court of Appeals for the circuit where the proposed export facility will be located to exercise original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action pertaining to such applications. The court would be required to order the Energy Department to approve any applications within 30 days if it finds the agency did not issue a decision by the bill's deadline. The bill passed, 277-133, with 41 Democrats voting yes and 132 voting no. [HR 351, Vote #50, 1/28/15]

Luján Voted For FY15 Energy-Water Appropriations Bill. In July 2014, Luján voted for Passage of the bill that would provide $34.0 billion in fiscal 2015 to fund the Energy Department, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation and several regional water and power authorities. It would provide $27.3 billion for the Energy Department, of which $11.4 billion would be designated for the National Nuclear Security Administration. It also would provide $5.6 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and $1 billion for the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation. The bill passed, 253-170, with 35 Democrats voting yes and 159 voting no. [HR 4923, Vote #402, 7/10/14]

Luján Voted For Bill To Require Expedited Permitting Of LNG Export Applications. In June 2014, Luján voted for Passage of the bill that would require the Energy Department to expedite decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas. As amended, it would require that a decision on pending applications be made within 30 days of the bill's enactment or the close of the application's public comment period, whichever is later. It would require that all applications publicly disclose the specific nation or nations that would receive the proposed export of liquefied natural gas. The bill passed, 266-150, with 46 Democrats voting yes and 148 voting no. [HR 6, Vote #359, 6/25/14]

Luján Voted Against Amendment To Increase Renewable Energy Funding, Offset By Reduction In Energy Department Salaries. In July 2013, Luján voted against a Peters, D-Calif., amendment that would increase by $10 million the amount provided for energy efficiency and renewable-energy activities, offset by an equal reduction to the amount provided for Energy Department salaries and expenses. The amendment was rejected, 191-223, with 183 Democrats voting yes and 7 voting no. [HR 2609, Vote #320, 7/9/13]
NOTE: Luján voted against dozens of similar amendments during this appropriations debate.

Luján Voted Against Requiring Approval Of Washington State Government For OCS Drilling Off Coast Of Washington. In May 2011, Luján voted against

an Inslee, D-Wash., amendment no. 8 that would require approval from the Washington state governor and legislature before the Interior Department makes available for leasing any area of the outer continental shelf off the coast of Washington. The amendment was rejected, 160-256, with 150 Democrats voting yes and 36 voting no. [HR 1231, Vote #318, 5/12/11]

Luján Voted Against Permanent Moratorium On Gulf Drilling. In May 2011, Luján voted against Brown, D-Fla., amendment no. 6 that would make permanent the current moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The amendment failed, 134-279, with 129 Democrats voting yes and 57 voting no. [HR 1231, Vote #316, 5/12/11]

Luján Voted Against Federal Funding For Ethanol Blender & Storage Facilities. In February 2011, Luján voted for a Flake, R-Ariz., amendment that would bar the use of funds made available in the bill for the construction of an ethanol blender pump or an ethanol storage facility. The amendment was adopted, 261-158, with 78 Democrats voting yes and 105 voting no. [HR 1, Vote #125, 2/19/11]

Federal Workers

Luján Voted For Extending Federal Civilian Pay Freeze Through 2013. In January 2013, Luján voted for an Issa, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill that would extend the current statutory pay freeze for federal civilian employees, including members of Congress, through Dec. 31, 2013. The bill passed, 287-129, with 55 Democrats voting yes and 127 voting no. [HR 6726, Vote #655, 1/1/13]

Luján Voted For Extending Federal Worker Pay Freeze Through 2013. In February 2012, Luján voted for a Ross, R-Fla., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would extend an existing pay freeze on federal employees for an additional year, through Dec. 31, 2013, and apply the same pay freeze to members of Congress. The motion passed, 309-117, with 72 Democrats voting yes and 115 voting no. [HR 3835, Vote #19, 2/1/12]

Financial Regulations

Luján Voted Against Requiring Additional Study On Implementing Derivatives Reform. In July 2013, Luján voted against a Fincher, R-Tenn., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would direct the Financial Stability Oversight Council to study the differences between the United States and other jurisdictions in implementing the derivatives credit valuation adjustment (CVA) capital requirement. The CVA is part of the Basel III agreement, which would establish higher capital requirements for banks. The study would address the effect on U.S. financial institutions, end users of derivatives and international derivatives markets. The bill passed, 353-24, with 146 Democrats voting yes and 24 voting no. [HR 1341, Vote #305, 7/8/13]

Luján Voted To Audit The Federal Reserve. In July 2012, Luján voted for an Issa, R-Calif., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would direct the

Government Accountability Office to audit all actions of the Federal Reserve and issue a report to Congress within 12 months of enactment. The bill passed, 327-98, with 89 Democrats voting yes and 97 voting no. [HR 459, Vote #513, 7/25/12]

Luján Voted To Prevent The Release Of The Second Half Of TARP Funds. In January 2009, Luján voted for passage of the joint resolution that would prevent the release of the second half of the $700 billion provided under the 2008 financial industry bailout law. The resolution passed, 270-155, with 99 Democrats voting yes and 151 voting no. [HJ Res 3, Vote #27, 1/22/09]

Food Safety

Luján Voted Against Overhauling Food Safety Laws To Increase Inspections, Punishments For Violators. In July 2009, Luján voted against passage of the bill that would make several changes to food safety laws, including establishing a risk-based inspection schedule for food facilities and imposing criminal and civil penalties for violations. The bill would require facilities that serve U.S. customers to register with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and pay a registration fee. Farms, grocery stores and restaurants would be exempt. The bill would mandate inspections ranging from every six months to every five years, depending on the level of risk at the facility. Individuals who knowingly violate food safety laws could face up to 10 years in prison. The bill also would authorize the FDA to impose mandatory food quarantines and require facilities to implement written food safety plans. The bill passed, 283-142, with 229 Democrats voting yes and 20 voting no. [HR 2749, Vote #680, 7/30/09]

Luján Voted Against Overhauling Food Safety Laws. In July 2009, Luján voted against a Dingell, D-Mich., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would establish a risk-based inspection schedule for food facilities; impose criminal and civil penalties for violating food safety laws; authorize the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to impose mandatory food quarantines; require food facilities to register with the FDA annually and pay a fee; and require facilities to implement written food safety plans. The motion did not receive a two-thirds majority. It failed, 280-150, with 230 Democrats voting yes and 23 voting no. [HR 2749, Vote #657, 7/29/09]

Guns

Luján Voted To Allow Concealed Carry Reciprocity Across State Borders. In November 2011, Luján voted for passage of the bill that would require states that allow the carrying of concealed firearms to recognize concealed-carry permits issued by other states. It also would require the Government Accountability Office, within one year of the bill's enactment, to conduct an audit of state laws that allow the issuance of concealed-carry licenses and permits to non-residents and report on the effectiveness of those laws and the impact on public safety. The bill passed, 272-154, with 43 Democrats voting yes and 147 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #852, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Restrictions On Concealed Carry Reciprocity To Require Law Enforcement Advance Notification. In November 2011, Luján

voted against a Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment no. 8 that would require that an individual notify a state's designated law enforcement agency at least 24 hours in advance of carrying a concealed firearm, permitted in one state, into the second state. The amendment was rejected, 123-299, with 123 Democrats voting yes and 65 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #849, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Restriction On Concealed Carry Reciprocity To Include Age Limits In Second State. In November 2011, Luján voted against a Cohen, D-Tenn., amendment no. 7 that would make individuals who carry concealed handguns, permitted in one state, across state lines as would be allowed under the bill subject to laws in the second state requiring them to be at least 21 to carry a concealed handgun. The amendment failed, 150-276, with 149 Democrats voting yes and 41 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #848, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Restriction On Concealed Carry Reciprocity To Include Safety Training Requirements In Second State. In November 2011, Luján voted against a Johnson, D-Ga., amendment no. 6 that would make individuals who carry concealed handguns, permitted in one state, across state lines as would be allowed under the bill subject to laws in the second state requiring them to receive firearm safety training, including live-fire exercises, to carry a concealed handgun. The amendment failed, 144-281, with 144 Democrats voting yes and 46 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #847, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Restriction On Concealed Carry Reciprocity To Require A Carry Permit Database. In November 2011, Luján voted against a Jackson Lee, D-Texas, amendment no. 4 that would allow individuals to carry concealed handguns, permitted in one state, across state lines only into states that maintain a complete database of all concealed-carry permits and licenses issued by the state and make that database available to law enforcement officers from all states 24 hours a day. The amendment failed, 139-284, with 138 Democrats voting yes and 51 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #846, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Restriction On Concealed Carry Reciprocity To Require In-Person Application. In November 2011, Luján voted against a Hastings, D-Fla., amendment no. 3 that would allow individuals to carry concealed handguns, permitted in one state, across state lines only into states that require them to apply for the permits in person. The amendment failed, 148-277, with 147 Democrats voting yes and 43 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #845, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted Against Restriction On Concealed Carry Reciprocity To Require States To Opt In To Reciprocity. In November 2011, Luján voted against a McCarthy, D-N.Y., amendment no. 2 that would require that the bill's provisions apply only to states that enact laws opting in to those provisions. The amendment failed, 147-274, with 143 Democrats voting yes and 43 voting no. [HR 822, Vote #844, 11/16/11]

Luján Voted To Bar Requiring Reporting For Multiple Firearm Importers. In February 2011, Luján voted for a Boren, D-Okla., amendment that would bar the use of funds made available in the bill to require a person licensed to import, manufacture or deal in firearms or ammunition to report information to the Justice

Department regarding the sale of multiple rifles or shotguns to the same person. The amendment was adopted, 277-149, with 41 Democrats voting yes and 147 voting no. [HR 1, Vote #115, 2/18/11]

Immigration

Luján Voted For Amendment To Add $10 Million In Funding For Border Security Fencing. In June 2012, Luján voted for a Poe, R-Texas, amendment that would increase by $10 million the amount for border security fencing, infrastructure and technology expenses and reduce by the same amount funding for expenses for the Office of the Undersecretary for Management. The amendment was adopted, 302-113, with 81 Democrats voting yes and 99 voting no. [HR 5855, Vote #352, 6/6/12]

Luján Voted Against Barring Use Of Federal Funds To Employ Illegal Workers. In June 2009, Luján voted against a King, R-Iowa, amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill to employ illegal workers, as defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act. The amendment was adopted, 349-84, with 172 Democrats voting yes and 84 voting no. [HR 2892, Vote #442, 6/24/09]

Member Of Congress

Luján Voted To Prohibit Member Offices From Leasing Vehicles. In May 2014, Luján voted for a Nugent, R-Fla., amendment that would prohibit the chief administrative officer of the House of Representatives from making any payments from any members' representational allowance for the leasing of a vehicle, excluding mobile district offices. The amendment failed, 196-221, with 59 Democrats voting yes and 132 voting no. [HR 4887, Vote #188, 5/1/14]

Student Loans

Luján Voted Against Deal To Cap Federal Student Loan Rates. In July 2013, Luján voted against a Kline, R-Minn., motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would set federal student loan interest rates issued after July 1, 2013 to the Treasury Department's 10-year borrowing rate, plus 2.05 percent for subsidized and unsubsidized undergraduate loans, 3.6 percent for graduate loans and 4.6 percent for PLUS loans. The loan rates would be capped at 8.25 percent, 9.5 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively. It would require the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress within four months detailing the federal government's cost of administering the student loan program and recommendations to avoid generating additional revenue from the program. The bill passed, 392-31, with 171 Democrats voting yes and 25 voting no. [HR 1911, Vote #426, 7/31/13]

Taxes

Luján Voted Against Extending Bush Tax Cuts For Two Years. In December 2010, Luján voted against a Levin, D-Mich., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill that would extend the 2001- and 2003-enacted tax cuts for all taxpayers for two years

and revive the lapsed estate tax, setting the tax rate at 35 percent on estates worth more than $5 million for 2011 and 2012. It also would extend unemployment insurance benefits for 13 months and cut the employee portion of the Social Security tax by 2 percentage points. The motion was agreed to, 277-148 with 139 Democrats voting yes and 112 voting no. [H R 4853, Vote #647, 12/17/10]

Transportation

Luján Voted To Bar Federal Spending On High-Speed Rail In California. In June 2012, Luján voted for a Denham, R-Calif., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill for high-speed rail in California or for the California High-Speed Rail Authority. The amendment was adopted, 239-185, with 4 Democrats voting yes and 183 voting no. [HR 5972, Vote #448, 6/29/12]